

Elk Point REVIEW

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Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Vol. 30 No. 49 • \$1 (GST incl.)

Novice
tourney

First of the season

Page 5

Weight loss

Clinic starts up

Page 12



...Inside this issue



Vicki Brooker photo

Look up... look waaay up..

Santa seems to be wondering how he's going to harness the super-sized reindeer currently stabled at the Elk Point Arts and Leisure Centre, in readiness for the upcoming Elk Point Community Choir Christmas Concert. The massive sleigh-puller took six sheets of plywood to construct, and reportedly required three men and tall ladders to lift its antlers into place. Good luck on getting this one off the ground, Santa!

Council voices diverse views on economic development

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Economic development committee chair Don Schultz and members Sandy Smith, Sandra Bishop, Jonny Nielsen and Lorne Young attended last week's meeting of Elk Point Town Council, a visit which Schultz said was "a prime opportunity to find out (council's) feelings on economic development, and what directions you'd like us to take. We don't just cover Elk Point, we have one county member and feel that the county contributes to the town and vice versa."

Each councillor gave input, Coun. Bernice Capjack's take on the EDC's role as "groundwork, research on how Elk Point could and should improve, and bringing to council things we could actually do. I value the work you have been doing."

Coun. Dwayne Yaremkevich, who also sits on the EDC, said the committee's work "is a slow process, but we're coming along."

"I don't quite understand the relationship between the committee, the town and the economic development coordinator," Coun. Eugene Buck said, adding that he has "philosophical misgivings" and is "interested in an all-inclusive, healthy community, but opposed to corporate welfare bum giveaways. It's not healthy to wallow in boosterism, and I want the EDC to be firmly grounded in reality. The town is not a money pit; the town is all the people who live here."

Coun Ron Fraess asked for a definition of economic development, which Schultz said is "looking at ways to make businesses strong and vital, to enhance the business community and make Elk Point more appealing to (make businesses and families) look at relocating here."

Fraess sees Elk Point as "vibrant and well-looked-after, clean town. I feel it's the town's job to look after and maintain what we have. If there are tax incentives, they should also include who should pick up the slack. Economic development is a very broad picture. People have to have a reason to show up and to be here."

Schultz further defined the committee's role as "to get together and gather thoughts to make this town a better place to be."

(Continued on Page 2)

Extravaganza was 'phenomenal'

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point's Christmas Extravaganza was "phenomenal" in terms of economic spin-off, according to the town's economic development coordinator, Bob Bezpalko, in his report to last Wednesday's chamber of commerce meeting.

"Most of the comments have been positive," chamber president

Sandy Smith added, noting that she plans to set out suggestion boxes at several locations to get "constructive criticism" from local residents.

Volunteer Lynall Slywka got a round of applause for his efforts regarding the outdoor skating rink at the Iron Horse Trail staging area. "It was priceless," Bezpalko said. "It was a huge attraction and it's still being used."

(Continued on Page 3)

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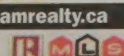


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Diverse views on economic development

(Continued from Front Page)

"We have representatives from various areas of the community, education, business, the county," added Young. "We look at ways to help existing businesses and encourage

new ones, but we also look at lifestyle – what would make people want to live here. We gather a range of opinions from a range of people."

On the lifestyle issue, Schultz added, "we did a lot of groundwork on the water spray park, then got the recreation coordinator involved. There are 3,000 seniors moving to Alberta each month because their family members moved here to work – how can we entice them to look at Elk Point as a place to make their home? These are part of what we try to do; we have to try to regenerate the population."

"One of our most recent focuses is on affordable housing," Smith noted.

The EDC is "a big group of people with various experience," Mayor Parrish Tung noted. "They are our eyes and

ears. We have to have a population base to support business, and that's one of the EDC's biggest jobs right now." He said that one "really big advantage" of Elk Point is that "you can see a doctor within two days. We aren't looking at a swimming pool, but at streetlights and other improvements. That's what the goal is."

"We got a grant for trail development, and one of our members did some awesome work on planning for it," Nielsen said.

The EDC's goal is "to keep Elk Point vibrant. We don't want to see it die. Steady growth is better than a boom," Schultz concluded. He noted that the EDC is currently "down a few members. We're soliciting, and will bring the names to council for approval."

(More council news, Page 11)

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

WPA Regular cattle sales held every Tuesday at 10:00 am

• Bred Cow Sale - December 9th at 12 Noon
Approximately 150 cows expected. 60 cross-bred cow herd dispersal

• Last cattle sale of 2010 will be December 21st - sales will resume January 11th, 2011

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Elk Point RCMP crack down on impaired drivers

By Cst. John Spaans

Elk Point RCMP Detachment

Elk Point RCMP and Emergency Services responded to a single vehicle rollover on Nov. 27 at 8:44 p.m. The pickup truck was located by passers-by approximately 200 m off the roadway on Range Road 72, north of Elk Point. When members arrived, the lone vehicle occupant was located in the passenger seat, sleeping. It was determined that the male had been drinking prior to the collision and had been traveling at a high rate of speed on the gravel road. The male was transported to Elk Point Health Centre before being brought to the Elk Point

Detachment to provide breath samples. However, once at the detachment, the male refused to cooperate and did not provide samples of breath. The 48-year-old Edmonton male has been charged with impaired driving and failing to provide samples of breath. He did not suffer serious injuries as the result of the collision.

On Dec. 1 at 12:30 a.m., Elk Point RCMP conducted a traffic stop with a suspicious vehicle on Highway 41 north of Elk Point when members noticed it did not have a license plate. When members made contact with the driver, it was determined that he was under the influence of alcohol. The male was returned to the Elk Point detachment where subsequent breath tests indicated a blood alcohol reading over twice the legal limit. The 58-year-old Kehewin resident has been charged with impaired driving, driving while suspended and operating a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol level over 80 mg per cent.

Break and enter

On Nov. 29, RCMP received a complaint of a break and enter at Slinger's Pub in Elk Point. The suspect(s) had gained entry into the bar through a main floor window and proceeded to steal money from behind the bar. The suspect(s) forced open a cash register and stole a cash

storage box. Investigators have collected forensic evidence and are currently reviewing security footage.

Should any members of the general public have information regarding this crime, please contact the Elk Point RCMP or Crime Stoppers.

Drug seizure

On Nov. 25 at 8:47 p.m., Elk Point RCMP were alerted to a suspicious vehicle at a rural residence in the area of Elk Point. The landowner noticed a suspicious van parked in their driveway and called 911. When members arrived on scene, a traffic stop was conducted with the vehicle. At this time, the vehicle was found to be unregistered and the driver on numerous release conditions. During a search of the vehicle, a quantity of heroin was located along with break-in tools. The 54-year-old Edmonton male was arrested for possession of controlled substances, possession of break-in tools and failing to comply with release conditions. The male was unable to provide a logical reason for being in the area and has been remanded into custody.

Collisions

On Nov. 26, Elk Point RCMP responded to two separate collisions on Highway 29 between Range Road 72 and Range Road 73. Icy road conditions played a key role in both

collisions.

At 6:45 a.m., an east-bound pickup truck struck a deer. The vehicle pulled over to the side of the road and activated its hazard lights. The deer had been sent into the westbound lane. A short time later, an eastbound car saw the truck with its hazard lights activated and moved to the opposite lane in order to pass. However, the car then struck the deer, causing the driver to lose control. The car then struck the parked pickup truck. Both vehicles went into the south ditch and sustained substantial damage. No one was hurt in this collision.

At 10:10 a.m., RCMP were called back to the stretch of highway after receiving a report of a two-vehicle collision. Two pickup trucks were driving westbound when the rear vehicle decided to pass the lead truck. As the two vehicles were side by side, the passing vehicle lost control on black ice and struck the other pickup truck. Both vehicles lost control and drove into the north ditch where they struck a group of trees and a fence. Both vehicles sustained heavy damage, but no occupants were injured.

Fraud

On Nov. 27, Elk Point RCMP were called by staff of the Hilltop Motor Inn to assist with a male who was refusing to pay a month's worth of rent. When members arrived, the suspect male made an agreement with the staff to pay the bill later in the day. However, after members left the motel, the suspect male packed his belongings and sneaked out of the motel. Later in the evening, the suspect male was located at a motel in St. Paul and arrested for fraudulently obtaining lodging. Because the male had also purchased a bus ticket to leave the province, concerns were raised about his intention to appear in court for these matters. The male was released on a \$500 cash bail, which has not been posted. The 43-year-old New Brunswick man is now residing at the Edmonton Remand Centre awaiting a court date in St. Paul.

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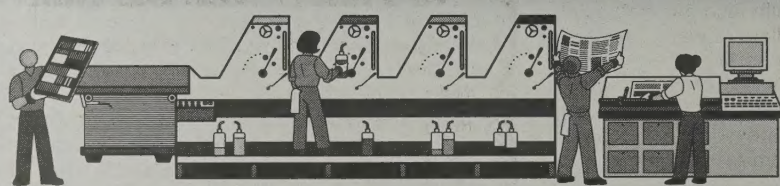
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Elk Point Community Choir

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Friday, December 17, 2010

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Chamber of commerce president Sandy Smith (second from left) presented Elk Point Bucks to grand prize winner Brenda Mudryk, left, who will enjoy shopping locally to the tune of \$2,000, Brenda Hayman, winner of \$300 and Debra McQuinn, \$200 in Elk Point Bucks, redeemable for merchandise and services at participating local businesses.
(More Extravaganza pictures on Pages 6 and 7)

Curling Club ready for a 'beefed up' season of fun

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

A new mood of optimism and a new partnership has Elk Point Curling Club looking forward to the start of the curling season this Wednesday.

With \$20,500 in aid from the Town of Elk Point and County of St. Paul's joint operating grant, another \$20,000 from the town's Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding, and close to \$2,100 from working the

50/50 at the Roar of the Rings, the club was able to meet last year's soaring utility costs and other financial obligations and face the 2010-11 season with a clean slate and a positive bank balance.

The Elk Point Oilmen's Association has booked their bonspiel for Feb. 3 to 6, and the club hopes to host its own bonspiel, the first in several years.

Elk Point and District Lions, who use the curling club's lounge as their Lions Den, are coming on board to offer curlers "more of a fun Wednesday night," modeled after the Elk Point Golf and Country Club's summer equivalent, says curling club president Curtis Porcina. The Lions have offered to come and cook an after-curling meal, priced at \$15, to raise funds to assist the club.

"We're going to beef it up," Lion Jonny Nielsen quipped.

Curling will start at 6 p.m. each Wednesday, with supper and socializing to follow the games.

The club has issued a challenge to businesses and organizations to put in a team, and already had seven signed up by last Wednesday's registration night. A number of individual curlers also turned out to sign up, either on teams or as spares, and more are welcome to drop in, curl for a nominal fee and stay for supper. Please call (780) 614-1951 to reserve, so the Lions will know how much supper to prepare.

Extravaganza firsts were a hit but event had its problems

(Continued from Front Page)

The first downtown skating rink in a number of years, since the previous location became Servus Credit Union, was so successful that Smith suggested it could be used as the focus for another event later in the winter, if weather permits.

Other comments centered on smaller sale revenue than previous years, the absence of entertainment, due to a last-minute cancellation, and the shorter parade.

"I think Extravaganza needs to be revamped," Lesia Porcina noted. "It was originally for the merchants, and the focus has changed."

Ways to "open wallets in your store," provide a heated venue for entertainment and promote parade participation were discussed at some length, along with ways to fine-tune the passport promotion.

More than a windmill

Bezpalko told the chamber that Lakeland College staff was at the Elk Point Visitor Information EcoCentre that day, setting up equipment to track the site's renewable energy production and usage. Statistics will be gathered and put on both the college and town websites where they will inform both businesses and individuals about the potential of wind and solar power generation. In the future, Bezpalko is hoping to have 'green power' seminars at the facility. A weather station will also be added and the information from it will also go on the websites.

The partnership with Lakeland College under a five-year agreement is "going well," Bezpalko noted. "It's exciting. The college's involvement means it's not just the chamber's windmill and solar panels anymore."

Light up!

The chamber's annual Christmas lighting and decorating competition will be judged immediately following the next meeting, which goes at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 15. The chamber deferred their planned move from dinner meetings at the Empress to 7 p.m. meetings at the Visitor Information EcoCentre until the second meeting in January. The first meeting of each month will remain at the Empress at noon on the first Wednesday.



Chamber president Sandy Smith also presented subsidiary prizes to two lucky ladies, Marlene McCarthy of Frog Lake (left) excited over her win of eight tickets to Elk Point Community Choir's upcoming dinner theatre, "Annie Get Your Gun," and Joanne Bezpalko looking forward to driving a spotless vehicle with her win of a \$100 gift certificate from ARK Autowash.

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Canada

Novice No. 2 hosts season's first tourney

Elk Point's first hockey tournament of the season was a big crowd-pleaser this weekend, when Elk Point Novice Avalanche No. 2 hosted two teams from Cold Lake, the Lloydminster Ice Warriors, St. Albert Phantoms, Mannville Hawks, Pierceland Panthers as well as their twins, Elk Point Novice Avalanche No. 1, for two days of action.

The host team racked up a pair of ties, Wolke Cueva scoring a pair and Sam Henderson a single in their first game, a 3-3 tie against Cold Lake White. In their second game they took on Cold Lake Black, Connor Lychak with a hat trick, Sam Henderson scoring a pair and Corbin Ockerman and Paige Henderson scoring their first goals ever. No. 2 took on Pierceland in a close final, Pierceland sliding the winning goal past goalie James Kozicki in the final minute of play. Connor Lychak scored a pair and Devon Nazarchuk a single in this one.

Hayden Ludlage scored a hat trick for Novice No. 1 and other scorers were too numerous to mention in their first game against Cold Lake Black, but with a maximum of a five-goal lead allowed on the scoreboard, Elk Point recorded only a 6-1 win.

Hayden scored two more in the second game against Mannville, Colton Van Maarion, Liam Ludlage and Roman Poulin adding singles and Parker Allen and Brandon Goertzen adding assists for a 6-3 win. After those two resounding wins No. 1's final loss to Lloydminster was a definite letdown. Hayden scored Elk Point's only two goals off assists by Liam Ludlage,

Brandon Goertzen and Dylan Ference as Parker Allen fought valiantly to keep Lloydminster's onslaught of shots from finding the twine.

Former locals go far with hockey

We often track the progress of our very own NHL star, Mark "the Marksman" Letestu, but here's some news about two of our former Elk Point players who have hit the ice half a world away. The following report comes from Werner Schmitt.

"John Schmitt and Chevy

Botting are playing for the SISEC North AM Selects in two separate men's elite leagues in Switzerland. The team is comprised of both Canadian and American players, ranging in age from 18 to 27. The team is based in Engelberg, which is about an hour train ride from Lucerne. Engelberg is surrounded by the Alps, and is one of the most beautiful places Sheri and I have seen. Mount Titlis, one of the tallest, if not the tallest peak in all of Switzerland, is just on the south side of the community. The community is about 5,000 - 7,000 people and is a ski resort.

The team plays their home games for one league in Engelberg, and for the other league in Kuesnacht. Each league has 12 teams, so they have a total of 48 league games. The team is not eligible for playoffs, so they have a tournament scheduled in Sweden for March, after the regular season.

(Continued on Page 11)

Elk Point Novice No. 2, coached by Greg Van Maarion with the assistance of Christoph Ludlage and Kevin Hardcastle, had two big wins before losing their final game to Lloydminster.

Vicki Brooker photos



doug
BASSETT

Review Sports



Elk Point Novice No. 2 Avalanche, coached by Jay Duffee with the assistance of Dean Rogal, Rick Rybchinsky and Greg Lychak, hosted a great eight-team tournament this past weekend, with good crowds of fans cheering on the young talent.



IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

The owners of Right Clean Auto & Pet Wash in St. Paul, Lorne and Joan Siemers, wish to address the large amount of confusion created as a result of the car wash in Elk Point, namely, Ark Autowash & Pet Spa, using a similar exterior appearance as Right Clean Auto & Pet Wash.

Lorne and Joan Siemers are not the owners of Ark Autowash & Pet Spa in Elk Point, nor are they affiliated with them in any way. These touchless car washes and pet washes are owned and operated independently of each other and are not part of any franchise, despite the similar exterior appearance. Any issues or concerns regarding the car wash in Elk Point should be directed to its owners, and not to Right Clean Auto & Pet Wash.

Right Clean Auto & Pet Wash is pleased to be this community's only provider of the Razor equipment from Washworld, and the superior cleaning detergents from Blendco Systems, combining quality and effective cleaning with efficiency.

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COMING SOON!! - OUTSIDE CHANGE MACHINE

New activities add to Extravaganza fun



Activity Lane was a new feature at this year's Extravaganza, and saw the five-and-under crowd undertaking an obstacle course with toboggans, hopping through a hopscotch course, tossing beanbags into hula hoop targets and having fun. Meanwhile, kids aged 6 to 12 were seeking out scavenger hunt clues handed out by reindeer-antlered volunteers from F. G. Miller High School at various locations in downtown Elk Point. Meanwhile, both kids and adults enjoyed the brand new outdoor skating rink at the staging area.



Beautiful Babies

of the year

2010

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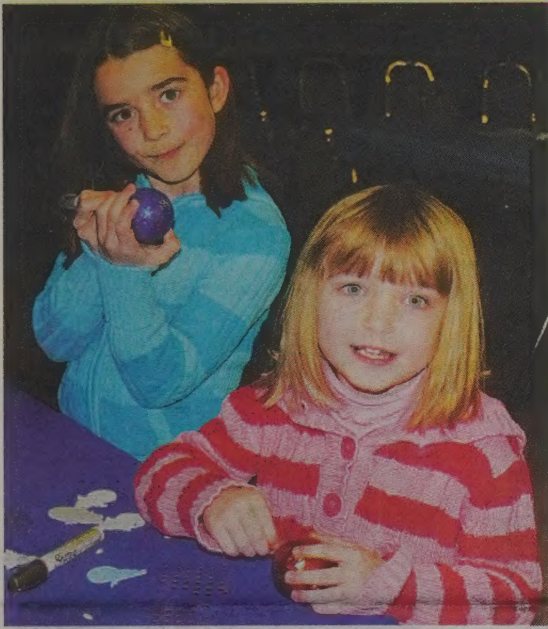
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Volunteers, participants enjoy Extravaganza

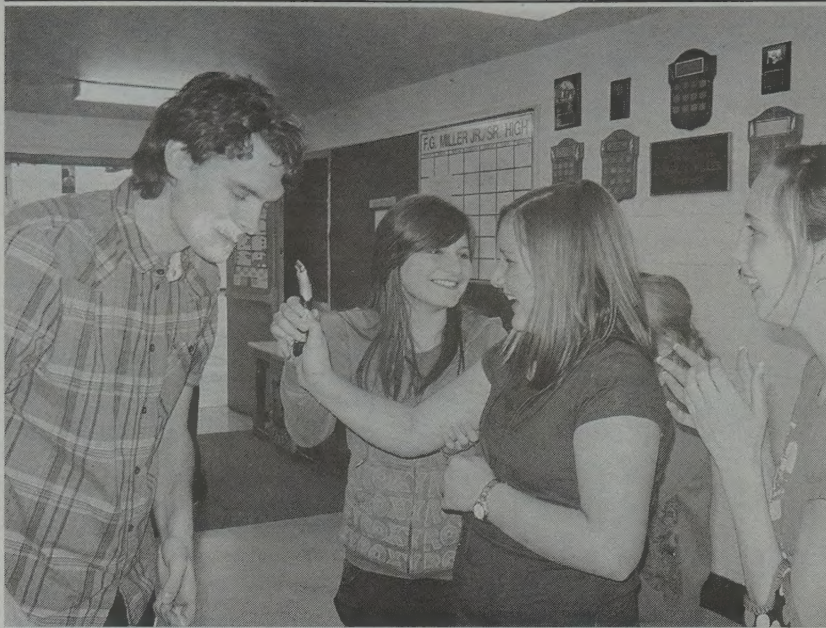


Come Join Us At The **Elk Point Co-op Food Store**

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LOTS OF IN-STORE SPECIALS



These 'mo's had to go!

Art teacher Mr. Larmand, who brought the Movember idea to F.G. Miller, bowed to the inevitable as some of his students took a razor to his moustache as part of the prostate cancer awareness campaign.

Principal Colin Bjorkman got his turn to play barber, too, as he gave concession operator Dwayne Zaraska a trim for the cause.

Photos contributed



Movember at F.G. Miller

By CHEYENNE LAWRENCE
Review Contributor

Movember came to F.G. Miller Jr.- Sr. High School during the month of November.

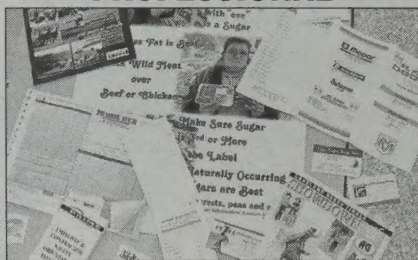
Movember came to be in 2003 in Melbourne, Australia. The moustache is the ribbon of men's health.

Mr. Larmand, a teacher at F.G. Miller, came up with the idea of doing Movember at school to raise awareness about prostate cancer. Every Wednesday at lunch some staff and students would meet for a leadership group meeting to plan ideas for

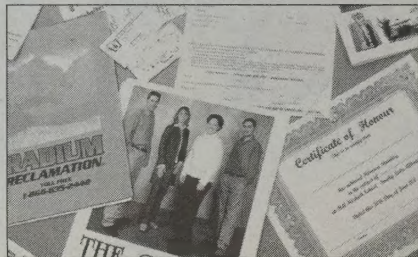
Movember. Staff and students donated to this cause for the chance to shave off moustaches of these brave men, which included Mr. Kryz, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Zaraska and Mr. Larmand. Some people who got to shave these men, included Haylee Ference, Mr. Youngmans, Mr. Bjorkman and Jesse Theriault.

All money raised in Movember goes to research to this disease. We raised over \$800 for this cause. If you would like to donate to this great cause go to this website: <http://ca.movember.com/mospace/1257472/>

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Heinsburg decks the hall ready for Christmas

Heinsburg Community Club was decked out in Christmas style on Saturday as a near-capacity lineup of vendors offered everything from hand-knit sweaters to decorated baskets of pinecone firestarters to homemade bread and handcrafted cards at the annual craft sale.



Holiday answers @ your library

By DAPHNE SCHNURER
Librarian

What to do with the kids when they are home from school for three weeks? Elk Point Municipal Library may just have the answer.

For sure, you'll want to stock up with the usuals, resources such as book and DVDs. We have a great selection of crafts, cooking and other books for kids and some great new releases. We also have put together a parent/kid survival kit that just may give

you a couple of hours of peace. Drop in at the library and pick up yours today. Our staff would be more than happy to help you.

Also, make sure to check out some of our new holiday fiction, just in case you find a few minutes to put up your feet and enjoy a relaxing break with a good book and a hot cup of tea.

Reminder to seniors: the December Seniors Tea is coming up tomorrow at 2 p.m. Make sure to drop by for coffee or tea, seasonal treats and good conversation.



Seniors sing of Christmas

Wanda Kryzanowski on piano and vocalists Velma Pease, Doreen Youngmans, Norm Brown, Lois Ramer and Carol Brown lead the crowd in some festive favourites at the annual Pioneer Circle Christmas Dinner.



Faye Smith, representing Alberta 55 Plus, presented Lena Stepa, right, with a pin recognizing her 15 years of membership in the sports association. Elk Point also has two 20-year members, Margaret Modin and Hazel Hannah in their group.

Vicki Brooker photos

Christmas starts at the Seniors

By VICKI BROOKER

Review Staff

Elk Point Pioneer Circle Seniors unwrapped the festive season with their annual Christmas Dinner on Sunday.

The well-attended event started with a welcome by Margaret Modin, and greetings from local politicians. MLA Ray Danyluk declared he was glad to be home. "You don't realize how much your community means until you are away from it." At Christmas time, he noted, "you need to forget the challenges and remember what's most important."

Mayor Parrish Tung said the annual dinner "is a highlight for our family at Christmas, we enjoy coming to renew our acquaintance with all of you." He brought greetings to the seniors for Christmas and New Year's on behalf of town council.

"Good health and happiness" from the County of St. Paul was the message delivered by Division 2 Coun. Dwight Dach.

Local RCMP and clergy were also represented at the dinner, with Pastor Jim MacLellan offering grace before the dinner was served.

The afternoon also featured the traditional sing-along of carols and festive favourites.

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John Schmitt (left) and Chevy Botting

Hockey highlights

(Continued from Page 5)

With preseason games, a pre-season tournament and the Sweden tournament, they will finish the season having played 60 to 70 games.

The team is low in the standings of the one league, and is in the middle of the pack in the other league. They are competitive in every game they play.

The team only has a total of 11 skaters right now, so they tend to run out of gas on the larger European ice surface. There are a couple of more players, tentatively coming in the next few of weeks, which will help out.

They are coached by Misko Antisin, who is a Hockey hero in Switzerland. He played in the Swiss Pro league for EV Zug, for eight years, winning the league championship once. He is to Swiss hockey what Gretzky is to Canadian hockey. In the two games that we went to, there were several people waiting for Misko after the game to get his autograph and talk hockey."

Midgets win silver

Closer to home, the St. Paul Midget B Canadiens won silver in the Shane Swenson Memorial Hockey Tourney in Riviere Qui Barre this weekend. In their first game Saturday vs Strathcona B Warriors, Brandon Watchmaker was in net for the 9-2 win, Brandon Gamache, Dino Meger and Jason Jubinville each scoring a pair, singles coming from Brett Ockerman, Danny Garrett and Jared Vallee, assists by Riley Chantry, Jason Jubinville, Dakota Amyotte, Jeremy Blanchette, Brandon Gamache, Dino Meger,

TJ Wapass and Danny Garrett. Player of the game was Brett Ockerman.

Game two was against the host Riviere Qui Barre Huskies, with Wyatt Dewan in net for the 4-3 win, Danny Garrett scoring a pair, Dakota Amyotte and Jason Jubinville singles, Canadiens player of the game Dino Meger with three assists, Brett Ockerman also assisting.

The two wins put the Canadiens in Sunday's Tier 3 final vs Spruce Grove Saints, with Brandon Watchmaker in net named the Canadiens player of the game after facing a barrage of shots that gave Spruce Grove the victory, Jason Jubinville and Wyatt Dewan scoring for St. Paul, Brandon Gamache and Jared Vallee assisting.

This weekend, the Canadiens play at home on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. against Vermilion in the CAP Arena. On Sunday they go to Hughenden for a 2:30 p.m. game.

A big Happy Birthday going out today to our editor in chief, Vicki Brooker and also to a former Elk Point minor hockey player, who now plays up in the big beer league with the B & R Bullets, Brett Youngmans.

Project takes next step

(Continued from Page 2)

Economic development coordinator Bob Bezpalko told town council last Monday that Lakeland College would be in Elk Point on Wednesday to install renewable energy performance monitoring equipment at the Visitor Information EcoCentre as part of their five-year contract. An interpretive centre for renewable energy is being considered as part of the centre. The Grade 9 students from F. G. Miller High School are hoping to tour the facility as part of their science program, and Bezpalko would like to see the study of renewable energy become part of the curriculum. He also noted that the town's website will be expanded with a section on renewable energy.

"We're looking at a very exciting year."

Tax incentives

Bezpalko had compiled a proposal on tax incentives, which was distributed to council in camera at one of the September meetings. "We decided to wait for the new council before discussed it," Mayor Tung explained.

"I'm not a believer in tax incentives," Coun. Fraess said. "The town could be out money. If you're going to exempt something, you have to decide what you will replace those funds with."

The mayor clarified that those property owners who benefit from the property tax break do have to pay the education portion of the tax, so the tax-free

period does not mean an additional cash outlay for the town. He later noted that buildings are not assessed until construction is complete. "It is actually deferred tax, and can promote the town."

"We want to have a healthy town," Coun. Buck noted. "If we can have affordable housing and reasonable taxes, it's its own reward."

Coun. Yaremkevich liked the current two-year incentive, which, "in reality is only one year of town taxes, because a building is not taxed in the year it is constructed. I think we should table this and go through this thoroughly before we decide." He emphasized that, "assessment (of a house) doesn't matter as long as it's fair, and is the same for the same size and kind of house everywhere in town."

Coun. Capjack said she liked "how it is now. I would also like an incentive for business owners to spruce up."

After further discussion, Council agreed to forward the proposal to the EDC and ask for their feedback by the end of January.

Cemetery bylaw

The new cemetery bylaw was given all three readings. It was determined that this bylaw pertains only to the east cemetery at this time, as the west cemetery, located across the road from the Elk Point Recreation Park, is currently cared for by a cohesive group of dedicated volunteers, who take pride in doing so.

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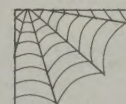
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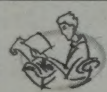
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Health centre to offer weight loss clinic

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Dr. Drew Ramful says Elk Point Healthcare Centre is offering a new service, one that may be even more important after the community eats especially well over the holiday season.

"One of the most important health problems in North America is obesity. There are many weight loss programs out there, but this one will be totally free and anyone is welcome. It will be run by myself and nurse practitioner Lindsay Malachowski."

An added incentive to lose weight comes from the new owner of Elk Point Pharmacy, Doug Loder, who has donated not only an Oilers ticket but a \$250 gift certificate for whoever loses the most weight. "He's very interested in getting this up and running," Dr. Ramful says.

"Obesity accounts for a lot of problems - diabetes, heart problems and arthritis and a lot of medical problems that mean time off work. We just can't overlook it any more."

The weight loss clinic will be held Wednesdays, with a second day added if the interest is sufficient. Those wishing to join in are asked to call (780) 724-4106 to book a time for a one-on-one session.

"It costs absolutely nothing," Dr. Ramful reminds, and it's open to everyone, irrespective of who they visit a doctor who is not in Elk Point. I think there will be a lot of interest in this ongoing enterprise, with regular followups, weekly or biweekly. It will involve education on diet, exercise and lifestyle and will take into consideration underlying health problems."

Cash Calendar winners

Winners of \$20 in the December draw of the Elk Point Minor Hockey cash calendar were: Toni and Ryan Hornbacher (Sherwood Park), Stephanie Brewer, Steve Ference, Cecile Demers, Cale Walker, Sue Cleland, Sadie Langdone (St. John's, NL), Tessa Pankiw, Terry Piesinger, Dailene Maennchen and Dale Hardcastle. The \$100 winner was Darlene Kozicky, while the lucky grand prize winner of \$500, was Olga Ference.



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